

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 2, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Vice-President Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, James Bogaczyk, Cheryl Bubacz, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; North Penn High School student Ariel Berguson.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2006 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Ariel Berguson gave a report on current and upcoming events for school activities.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported on the KCC building.

The KCC kitchen remodeling to start this month.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)

V.I.B.E. meetings are held second Wednesday of the month.

V.I.B.E. did not have a meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 17, 2007.

Councilmember Tonya McNamara reported Jill Nickerson was out of town tonight. Mrs. McNamara was hoping Mrs. Nickerson would have attended tonight's meeting to give a presentation on the skateboard project.

(D) **Mayor:** Nothing to report at this time.

(E) **Police:** Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

More complaints on dogs running loose and dog owners not cleaning up after their pets, especially at Island Park. The Police Department is to increase their patrols of the park. Borough Secretary to advertise Animal Ordinance No. 352 in Penny-Saver.

Reports:

Councilmembers discussed the poor appearance of property located on north end of North Williamson Road. Years ago a Special Exemption was granted to allow him to repair vehicles on his property. Chief Steffen to send a letter to property owners requesting them to get their property in compliance with the Special Exemption requirements.

An advertisement is to be printed in Penny-Saver reminding all property owners about the Borough Code of Ordinance pertaining to junk being stored on their properties. The Ordinance requires that all vehicles must display a current valid registration sticker and has current insurance coverage. If the property owner fails to respond and/or fails to comply with the provision of the Ordinance, the Ordinance provides for a penalty plus the cost of prosecution.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

The Coalie Pickman sign by the Green Bridge, Main Street, is not working. A new power source is needed. The cost to change to a different outlet would be approximately \$1,500.00. Councilmember Tonya McNamara to check with V.I.B.E. to see if the organization plans to upgrade the sign. The Coalie Pickman sign is to be put on next month's agenda.

Verizon Cell Tower, on South Mountain, to be operational soon.

Presently the Borough is covered with Treasurer's Bonds. The Treasurer Bonds cover Blossburg Borough Secretary Mary Signor and Benjamin Jones for the Blossburg Municipal Authority. Borough Manager George Lloyd suggested raising bond limits. Also, Mr. Lloyd would like to purchase a blanket employee bond.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:15 P.M.
RECONVENED 7:30 P.M. PERSONNELL DISCUSSED.**

Council suggested Mr. Lloyd check on cost of a \$50,000 - \$75,000 Bond to cover Borough and Authority. Personnel to be covered: Mayor, President and Vice-President, Borough Manager and Blossburg Municipal Secretary.

(H) Planning Commission: No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: No Meeting.

Joe Naimoli has resigned as President of Little League. Information will be handed into Recreation Board next meeting.

(J) Fire: No report received.

Councilmember Raymond Kaminski did not attend the last meeting.

Reports:

- (K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.
Fox News Channel contract has been signed.
- (L) **Library:** A Library meeting is scheduled for next week. Councilmember Tonya McNamara is planning to attend.
An antique appraisal event is being held on January 9, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.
Marge Wetherbee will appraise items for a fee of \$5.00 for each item.
- (M) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.
- (N) **Budget:** Nothing to report.
- (O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:**
Blossburg Municipal Authority to bid out 1000' of 6" DIP before prices increase in January 2007.
DIP to be used for Schuylkill project.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:**

The Borough Manager has to get information to the Borough Solicitor to finish this deed of dedication.

2. **Additional Railroad Property:**

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Borough Solicitor is working on.

3. **Electric System Assessment:**

Correspondences have been received from Penelec. Penelec to survey area for major line replacement project. The repairs are to start by March 2007. "There will be a need for some planned power interruptions during the project. These interruptions will be communicated to the customers involved and we will do our best to minimize these outages."

4. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Mr. Lloyd has sent a copy of map and deed description to solicitor.

5. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Mr. Barrett is attempting to draft an ordinance.

6. **Outdoor Burning Ordinance:** Remove from agenda. Motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

7. **Engine Brakes Ordinance:** PennDOT is to do study on Route 15 tractor-trailer traffic before they approve.

8. **Home Grant:** Work has started on Martha Lloyd Home on South Williamson Road. The old trailer/garage were removed and corners of new home marked with metal pins. Contractors to dig out and pour footers today.
9. **Building Permit Fees:** The Borough Solicitor is writing up an ordinance, which would lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. Labor and Industry has to be notified of the proposed ordinance before adoption.
10. **Outside Wood Burning Stoves:** Borough Solicitor to get a sample ordinance so Council can review.
11. **Update Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinance:**

Ordinance amendment would allow State to collect Borough's share of tax.

Motion to advertise Real Estate Transfer Ordinance was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.
12. **Auditor:** 2005 audit from auditor has yet to be returned. Borough Manager to contact her to see why.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Electric Feed for Coalie Pickman Sign by Main Street Green Bridge:** Discussed earlier.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW PUBLIC OFFICIALS LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007 IN THE VIP ROOM OF THE FARM SHOW COMPLEX, BEGINNING AT NOON. PLEASE CONTACT MICHAEL PECHART AT (717) 705-2122 OR EMAIL mpechart@state.pa.us.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary